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Illusion

THE MAGAZINE FOR CROSSDRESSERS, DRAG QUEENS & ADMIRERS

Jan/Feb 1997

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ILLUSION MAGAZINE, 6802 OGDEN ROAD SE, CALGARY, AB CANA
EDITOR: Barbie Associate Editor: Christine

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AS you can see, Illusion Magazine has had a complete facelift. We've been debating and discussing the direction of this magazine for quite some time. We know that this magazine has the potential of attracting all sorts of readers. For some readers it keeps you up to date with club activities and club members, while for others, it may contain some interesting tips and stories. There are also a few readers that are only interested in the personal section and the classified ads.

With big events such as the Bizarre Ball, we have recognized that a lot of people with different interests have no avenue of connecting, talking, reading, sharing or advertising their area of pleasure.

Still printing bi-monthly, Illusion is going to "broaden" its horizons and cover all sorts of fetishes. We encourage submissions (stories, ads and articles), and request they be submitted on time (February 21 is the next deadline). Maybe something will happen to you during Valentines!

They should be on a High Density formatted disk. Files should be saved with a name no longer than eight characters and have an exten-

sion of ".txt", ".wpd" or ".doc". Please supply a hard copy with your disk(s). To make it simple, don't do any margins, column's, fancy titles etc. Please note we require only one space after a period. Letters and short items can be typed or neatly written (if you do not have access to a typewriter or computer), however large stories must be on disk.

Illusion has also decided that extra help is needed for us to achieve some goals. The gals from qc Magazine have joined forces with Christine & I and we are looking forward to producing a fabulous fetish magazine with them. They have been producing qc Magazine for quite awhile and do a very professional job. We welcome them into our world of Illusion.

Whenever there is change, there will be opinions galore. Some people will like the changes, some will hate them. We're taking the magazine out of the realm of just being a club newsletter and into the mainstream fetish marketplace. Don't worry, we will always maintain a gender flare or gender persona in our magazines to come. We just feel that to better educate and inform the general public, the magazine had to have a more universal appeal. Let's face it kids...it needs to be more exciting!

YOU can help! The registry photos are old. We need some current high quality photos from you. Watch out for those busy backgrounds! Ask us for help if you need it as we now have a professional photographer on staff.

As for submissions, anything goes. We want readers to read about lifestyles..as they really are. Ever had a fantasy you would like to share with readers? Anonymous of

course, unless you want to use your real name. If you have a personal ad already with us, then perhaps its time to jazz it up. We have been keeping the ads to a "dull roar", but now it's time to liven them up. We still will try to maintain good taste and edit accordingly.

Submissions can be sent directly to us or you may fax them to (403) 275-6443.

Even though the cover price has gone up, subscriptions and memberships will remain at \$50, so its still obvious that it's to your advantage to be a member or subscriber.

Hope you enjoy the new facelift!

Love

Darbie

Dear Reader:

Happy New Year and a great big THANK YOU to all of you who participated in our annual Food and Toy collection. This year everything was given to the Salvation Army, at the Social Services Centre at the old Grace Hospital. The Christmas social continued in our cycle of changes, as attendees can attest. It was the last social held at our soon to be club space. Socials will now be held in the same building, but downstairs rather than on the main floor. Access is down the stairs at the front of the building. Call us if you are unsure. Enjoy the new look of the Magazine and send us your letters, articles and new photos as soon as you can.

In Heaters and Hosiery,

Love Christine



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YOUR LETTERS

"...only to then become aroused by the feel of the smooth layers of nylon swishing around my naked legs."

LINGERIE LOVER...

Like some of your other readers, I love to wear smooth, silky lingerie. For me, it all started backstage when I was in a junior high school play. During the play, the outfit I was to wear included flounced petticoats. Mortified, I quickly slipped them on, only to then become aroused by the feel of the smooth layers of nylon swishing around my naked legs. From that day on, I loved the feel and look of lingerie! In high school and throughout college I would often snatch a slip or pair of panties belonging to my sister or mother from the laundry hamper and masturbate with them until I achieved an explosive orgasm.

When I married, several years out of college, I was too embarrassed to tell my wife. My desires remained suppressed - until one night just recently.

My wife and I were dressing to go out to dinner with some friends, and I had on a pair of white pants. You could see the outline of my underwear and my wife suggested that I wear a pair of her nude-colored bikini panties. I almost fainted!

Here was my wife urging me to do what I'd wanted to do for several years. I quickly undressed and stepped into the panties. The cool silky nylon felt so wonderful. My wife noticed my growing erection, smiled and said something like. "Looks like you enjoy wearing my panties".

That night I wore the silky bikinis to bed, and we had a dynamite sex session. The next week she bought me a few more pairs in different colours. Now I wear them all the time and our sex life couldn't be better.

I urge other male readers to try this fantastic turn-on. It certainly worked for me.
Anon

A WEEKEND OF TV..

First I want to say that I enjoy Illusions Magazine very much, although I feel that you should have more stories and letters from bisexual transvestites. I'm a 25 year old male bisexual.

Twice a month I spend a delicious weekend playing the part of a filthy little slut I pack my bags and head for a classy motel spending the weekend as a woman. I slip out of my men's clothes, draw a bubble bath, completely shave myself and rub myself down with baby oil. Once I'm done I gaze into the mirror and admire myself. My fake eyelashes looked great, my lips are painted a deep red with gloss and my perfume smells delicious. I have some really sexy clothes, mostly tight fitting and revealing. I take a final check of my appearance in the mirror and I have to smile, because I know that no one would ever suspect that I am a man. I can't wait to meet some stud!

Anon.

"Twice a month I spend a delicious weekend playing the part of a filthy little slut."

Take a look

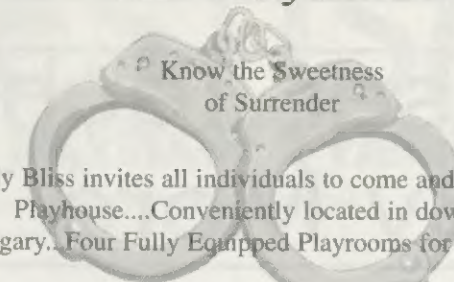


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**SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
FEBRUARY 21.**

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Laser Technology Better By More Than A Hair

Patients at the Calgary Laser Rejuvenation Clinic are beaming.

Why? Because the Clinic's advanced laser technology has made conventional hair removal methods obsolete.

The Clinic's new laser hair removal system is the only one of its type in North America - it literally harnesses the power of light.

Using a polychromatic light source, the laser beam harmlessly penetrates the skin. The laser removes hair follicles without causing skin damage. Contrary to what many may think, the laser doesn't burn hair follicles, it turns them to steam.

Conventional hair removal methods are not only painful and temporary, they tend to traumatize surrounding areas. Laser treatment, on the other hand, works gently and with pinpoint precision. A slight tingle after the procedure is normally the extent of patient discomfort and the end result is thorough and long-lasting. A full hair removal program (face and legs) requires several sessions at the clinic, but once the program is completed, hair will not reappear in the treated areas.



Ever plucked your eyebrows through a veil of pain induced tears? Or had to work up the nerve to get your legs waxed one more time? Or tried electrolysis as an answer to the drudgery of shaving? We put ourselves through a lot of pain to be beautiful, and whether you agree with it or not, the beauty industry is eager to give it to us. New "solutions" appear on the shelves daily. Persistently hopeful, we invest our time and money in beauty products and services whose results are, let's face it, less than satisfying.

"It doesn't need to be that way," says Dr. Tom Y. Woo, Calgary MD and dermatologist with the Laser Rejuvenation Clinics.

"We believe people need a better choice in hair and wrinkle removal procedures - one that considers their comfort and convenience."

Woo and partner Dr. Janis P. Campbell, also an MD and dermatologist, are offering that choice through the Laser Rejuvenation Clinic. Using state of the art laser technology, their highly trained laser clinicians remove unwanted hair quickly and permanently with a minimum of pain and discomfort. A burst of light and "poof" it's gone.

The power is in the light. The laser uses the natural properties of light to remove or vaporize hair follicle without causing skin damage.

"We control the light very precisely," says Woo. "It penetrates to a pin-pointed, controlled depth, so we treat only the areas we want to treat without touching anything else. The laser is very safe, efficient, less expensive and less painful way to remove hair."

As Dr. Woo says, the laser makes wrinkles vanish, laugh lines cry and crows feet take flight!

The Laser Rejuvenation Clinic & Spa is located at 150, 10601 Southport Rd. S.W. You can reach them at 286-6888

TRANSVESTISM WITHIN A PARTNERSHIP OF MARRIAGE & FAMILIES.

BY YVONNE SINCLAIR

SECOND (REVISED) EDITION.

Continued from the December Issue

Q 28 If my partner joins your organization, will it affect our relationship by giving him more opportunity to dress?

Not necessarily, in fact, it can allow him to take his transvestism away from the home - without the risk of exposing himself to close public scrutiny in places such as clubs or wine bars which are used by the general public. Such exposure can be very disconcerting for those who are just coming to terms with their emotive feelings, and are probably feeling very nervous about appearing dressed at all. At the TV/TS Centre we are offering a venue where they can mix with others without fears of hostility or rejection. You as a wife or a girlfriend, are most welcome to visit with your partner. Often, a marriage will become stronger without the need for deceit, or the transvestite's frustration. It can become more stable; whereas it might have reached a stage of dogmatic frustration, the Group social evenings allow free expression, becoming an evening to be looked forward to. It can also help in that the transvestism might no longer have to be faced in the home as part of your evenings together.

The opportunity to dress more often *is* there, but because it is, the urgency to dress is removed, and what was a manic compulsion can become merely another enjoyable hobby. If the opportunities were fully used by the members, then membership of the Group would have to be limited; for although it exceeds a thousand, the average attendance at social evenings is 30 to 50. The membership is spread over the whole country, so not everyone is able to make full use of the Centre; those who are too far away will still have to dress at home; but we are trying to help such members to start 'chapters' of the Group in various parts of the U.K. These will be based on the same format as The TV/TS Centre.

Every person who reads of, or who has visited the Group, has learned something about transvestism, which can only be to their advantage. They have found that some of their ideas were wrong, and have departed better in the knowledge that they have, at last, a sense of "belonging"; which in itself is of inestimable value.

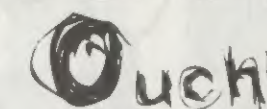
Q 29 As he is a transvestite, is he likely to mix with degenerate types such as prostitutes or criminals, who are often associated with night clubs?

Firstly, the Social Group is *not* a night club, and no entertainment is provided, apart from that which we make for ourselves. As often as not, reporting in the press which makes mention of transvestites in a night club, is referring to a female impersonator presented by the club for the entertainment of its customers.

We offer nothing of interest to prostitutes or criminals which would induce them to visit the Group, or want to. We offer simple facilities; a place where transvestites, transsexuals, wives, girlfriends and others can meet people with similar interests in a social atmosphere;

...Continued on page 12

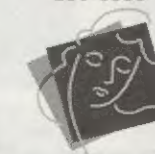
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Ultimate Nails

by Michelle Hart

One of things that most of us desire as part of our feminine presentation is a good looking set of fingernails. There are two ways to achieve this goal: learn how to use false nails as many do or grow your own. Acrylic tips and nails are also available, but unless you are in a position to be living your feminine gender role full time, this option is not a viable one. This article is about growing your own.

MY natural fingernails have always been a problem for me; very flat with no crown, weak and brittle. They were forever cracking about halfway along their length and breaking off exposing the quick. It was a painful and frustrating situation that I have had to live with for most of my life, until recently.

Thanks to a new product available from Avon, called "Strong Results", those days are behind me now. It really does work. "Strong Results" is inexpensive (about \$6.00) and comes in a 7ml blue bottle which will last approx. two months if applied as directed.

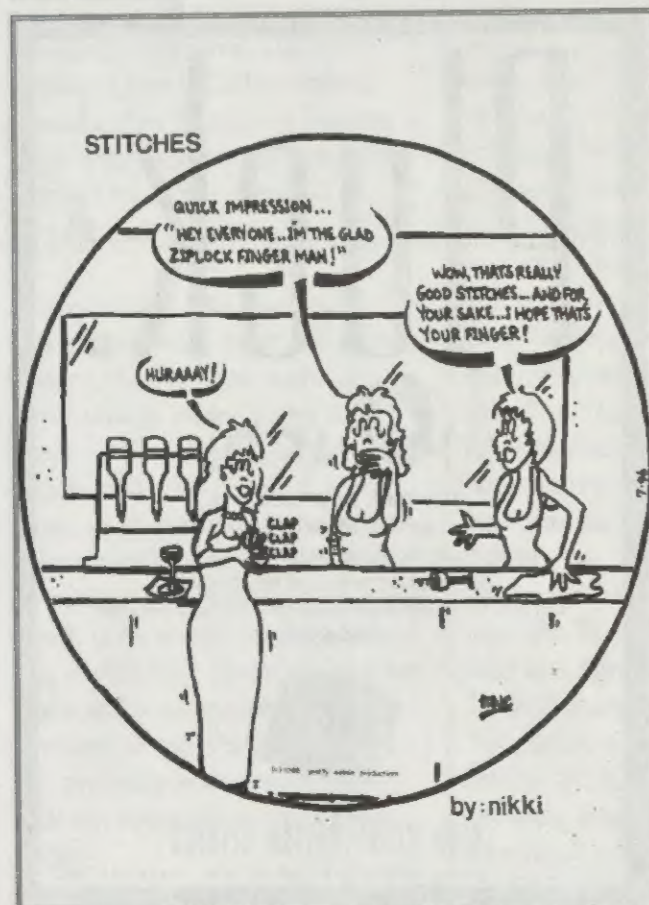
One thing about this product that is very appealing is that unlike most other nail strengtheners, it dries to an totally invisible finish. Your nails will acquire a bit of a "sheen" after awhile, but that is because they have become strong and healthy and it is a natural look that will go unnoticed. The instructions say to apply "Strong Results" to your nails twice daily. I do this over my morning coffee and use it as a wake up exercise and then again while having my evening coffee after supper. The key is to follow a routine and if you do, the results are amazing.

After the first period of use, I became aware of the fact that my nail strength was vastly improved. I linked the application routine to a further regular routine of nail shaping with a fine grit nail file (I got mine at B & B, they have a good selection at reasonable prices) and cuticle care. I now have a great set of natural nails.

Their new found strength has caused them to crown as well. My flat weak nails of the past are gone and growing in their place is a new set just like the ones I always wanted. I still break the odd one now and then, but I can live with that knowing that the replacement nail will be strong and vibrant. One thing I have noticed is that it appears that the rate of nail growth has slowed down and so a new replacement nail takes it's own sweet time in getting back to where it left off.

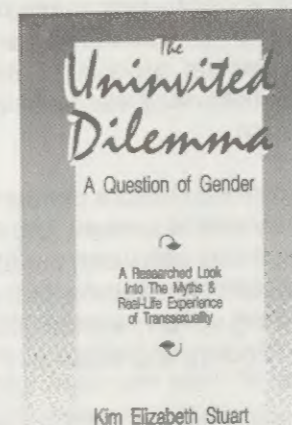
Unless you try and grow a set of "Dragon" nails whose very design is a statement in itself, plying your daily trade while in possession of a longish set of healthy nails will go unnoticed by most people, including intimate friends. Only one person has made a reference to my nails and that was only to say that they thought they looked really healthy!

With a routine of regular nail and cuticle care and a little bit of help from Avon, you can have a great set of natural nails. Nowadays, my biggest problem is to find the time to apply my nail polish and let it dry before I start cruising around town as Michelle. Oh well, few things are ever totally perfect.

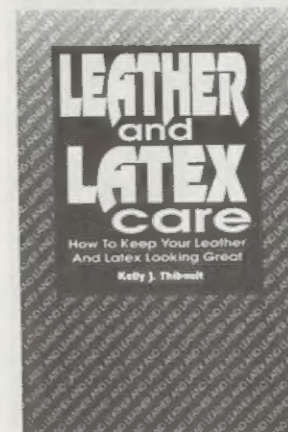


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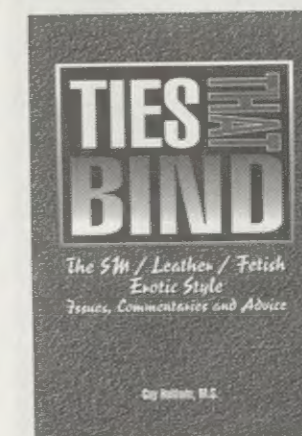
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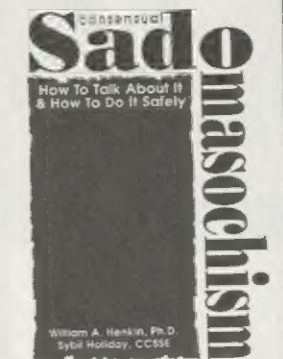
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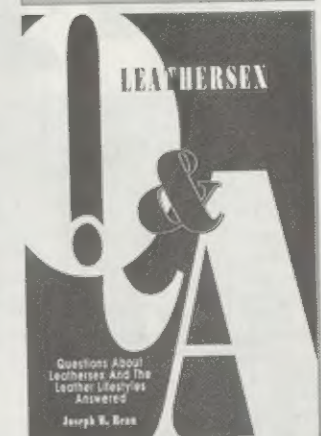
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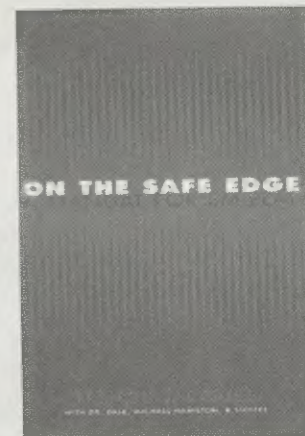
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THE Love of RUBBER

SEXUAL fetishes are rarely discussed publicly because people are afraid of finding sexual fetishes attractive, and are too timid to admit fetishes may enhance their sex life. Despite this reservation, there continues to be a deep rooted desire for sensual gratification in human nature.

Rubber is one segment of fetish loving that people around the world are experimenting with. It is one product that can fulfill your fantasy. Some people dislike rubber for the smell, the sweating and the coolness, while others crave for these pleasures.

In the realm of dressing for pleasure, rubber is truly a unique experience. Of all materials, rubber is the most soft and smooth, closely resembling perfect human skin.

If worn loosely over bare skin, it caresses the body with every movement. The play of the folds and ripples look very much alive. The caressing action is reinforced by static electricity which is generated by friction. On a dry day this can add a tickle by making your body hair rise and at night you can see the sparks.

If rubber is worn tight, its elasticity- unrivaled by any other material- comes into play. It can give you a pleasant hug- gentle or strong- and it never gets tired. If you are wearing a confining rubber garment over a long period of time, it seems to tighten its hold as your muscles tire.

It is difficult to find a perfect tight-fitting suit that is completely free of wrinkles and fits like a second skin, however, it is well worth the effort. Like a living sculpture, a beautiful abstraction of the body shape is achieved, covering up hair, wrinkles, blemishes and parts with different colors and textures.

To some people, tight rubber heightens the sense of touch, gentle stroking of the surface produces showers of innocent pleasure through your body. The loved one caressing will also be rewarded underneath the smooth surface. The body feels very warm and alive. For those who enjoy dressing for pleasure, rubber is both stimulating and exciting.



EROTIC STORIES SILKEN LININGS

by B. DOOLITTLE

TO celebrate our first anniversary I suggested that Jim dress up like me! At first it seemed like an innocent lark, but as it turned out, switching roles for an evening revealed his deepest sexual needs and desires.

Jim's a small, slim man about 5'8". Dark haired like me, he has lovely brown eyes and a sensuous full mouth. The week before our big day, he could hardly talk about anything else. I was taken aback by his eagerness.

One night he spent an hour rummaging through my closet, looking for the perfect dress. I let him sort through my jewelry box trying all sorts of things on. Since my shoes wouldn't fit him, I borrowed a pair from a friend of mine. He was taking the whole thing so seriously! I was amused by his enthusiasm, but on a deeper level, I could feel myself becoming more and more excited.

On our anniversary, we got an early start. I gave him the whole afternoon to get ready. He showered and shaved (I was startled to see that he had shaved his legs, chest, underarms and pubic area as well). I was secretly thrilled. I stared at his hairless crotch; his cock seemed larger and more vulnerable, and I couldn't resist taking it in my hand.

It took me about half an hour to put on his makeup, all the time we hardly spoke. Our silence seemed to be charged with sexual energy. Jim was anxious to see himself in the mirror. I wanted him to wait until he was fully dressed and the illusion was complete. Taking his hand, I led him into the bedroom and gave him a pair of my black lace panties. Even beneath his makeup, I could see him blushing. He slipped into the panties and pulled them up until his balls bulged in the crotch. We stuffed rolled up stockings in the bra and then he stepped into the lacy dress. Then I turned him around and brought him over to the mirror on the wall.

I think we were both rather stunned. Jim was a real beauty. Staring at this "other woman" I was aware of how slippery my pussy had become. I've never had any bisexual experiences, but on some occasions I'm attracted to other woman. I was so suddenly aroused that my face flushed with excitement. The thought of his warm prick stirring inside my lace panties made me even hotter. I stepped closer and put my hand between his legs, touching his cock through his dress. "We'll have to take care of this", I said teasingly. I could feel him trembling. I grabbed his hand and guided him over to the bed and started playing with him. I felt intoxicated by the perfumed smell of his makeup and the silky feel of his dress made my hands tingle.

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SHELAGH ANDERSON PHOTOGRAPHY

TRANSVESTISM

Cont'd from page 7

where they can meet without fear of hostility, ridicule or rejection; where they are able to dress and socialize, often taking the transvestism away from the home, where it might be a cause of distress in the family.

Therapy, to a degree! By having the chance of expressing themselves as they wish, with help and advice on matters ranging from make-up to wigs, buying clothes, doctors and clinics, etc., the transvestite will stop doubting his sanity and get quickly back into the main stream of life. They will have a better understanding of themselves, and so will their partners. We encourage partners to come along, so that they might see at first hand that the fears which prompted your question have no foundation. If you come along with your man, not only will you be offering him your support, but you also can enjoy this new field of social life.

*Illusions Social Club
presents*

The 2nd Annual

**LAS
VEGAS
NIGHT!**

FEBRUARY 18

8:00 P.M.

12/Illusion Magazine

YOUR LETTERS

cont' from page 4

DEAR BARBIE & CHRISTINE, AND THE REST OF THE GANG AT THE CLUB.

With the advancements that keep moving faster than I am able to keep up in the Web and the Internet, I thought I'd get myself connected. With that in mind, Selene now has an Internet e-mail address it is samaria@geocities.com.

Reading" the magazine for the past few months, I've watched Barbie's "tips" for all of us ladies. If I may, I'd like to borrow the soapbox for a little, and speak on some of my own experience.

What I've been noticing (and why is is that so many people have to learn things the hard way?) is that people are different. You're probably reading this and saying, "Why yes of course, we all knew that - it goes without saying!" And of course, you'd be right. What I learned though, is that so often, people know this with their minds, but not their hearts. You see, I just caught myself on it. I watched the disappointment run through me as I realized that not all people have the same unthinking empathy for other peoples problems that at I tend to encounter. Not all people *care* about other peoples problems, and for me, this was a hard lesson to learn.

Each of us came to the club for our own reasons, some for support, some for freedom of expression without fear. For me it was the chance to buy the first dress of my very own. I am eternally indebted to your for that Barbie.

Originally I did not realize what to do about my differences. In fact, I'm still learning. I'm learning to deal with my heart, my head, not to be so paranoid, and learning to deal with issues that lie ahead the long road that I travel. Well for this New Year, I pray to the good Goddess that we all continue to learn these things, and more from the heart and in our souls.

S. Angela Maria #398

DEAR ILLUSION:

I wanted to say what a wonderful job you have done with the magazine. I would also like to thank the Edmonton Club for showing my friend and I a very good time.

Joan #284

2 SECOND ANNUAL NOVICE NIGHT

THE 2nd Annual Novice night sponsored by the "Illusions" Social Committee and hosted by "Princess" Christine, was held at the regular Friday Social on Nov. 29th.

The purpose of Novice Night is to share the knowledge and experiences of older members with some of the newer ones. This year, rather than make our presentations to all, we held it in a seminar fashion in the make-up room. This worked out really well, allowing those who weren't interested to socialize in the "Pink Palace".

Six or seven newer members listened and asked questions of presenters, Princess Christine, Lady Karen, Madame Stephanie and Empress Michelle. Sister Correen patiently stood by throughout the evening to take photos for the Newsletter. Christine spoke about shopping and the difficulties of finding the time to practice and do all the things that one would like to, while at the same time being committed to raising and supporting a family.

This area has been left intentionally blank due to privacy considerations.

Karen spoke about the need for self acceptance and the important part it can play in achieving your future goals as an out-of-the-closet cross dresser.

Stephanie gave a short talk on shaving problems, ways to cover the beard shadow and foundation techniques.

Michelle brought her entire wig collection and in between extolling the values of experimentation and having a hairdresser, attempted to illustrate how different hair colors and style can change your visual appearance quite dramatically, while wearing the same clothes and without changing your make-up.

After it was over, several new members present came up and said that they had enjoyed our efforts and expressed the thought that hopefully they would be in a position to be presenters next year. If their enthusiasm is any indication we are sure they will be more than ready.

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GIRLS UP NORTH SOCIAL UPDATE

1st Princess VI Rachel C.

It has been so busy up here that a girl like me has barely had enough time to catch her breath these last two months. There have been so many things going on that I hardly know where to begin. (And you thought what you said & did wasn't being recorded!)

I should start off by announcing the winner of our first wig draw, which was held at our social in November. The winner was our very own **Pauline**. To say that she was as pleased as punch (or is that a pint of beer) would be an understatement. The social committee in Edmonton was also pleased as the draw managed to turn a nice little profit. Hopefully we will all see the fruits of this soon.

A number of the girls attended the **First Annual Castle Ball** on the last Saturday of October at the Prince of Wales Armoury. The evening turned out to be a great party. There were some truly awesome costumes in evidence that night, including one person dressed as a telephone pole and another dressed as a caring nurse in a short white dress and stockings. The food was provided by **Jazzberry's** and was truly mouth watering. The food was so good that the girls had a heck of a time tearing me away from the buffet table. Even **Sonya** would have been impressed with the food laid out on the table this night.

In November we had our fashion show social. It turned out to be a terrific evening. Four of our girls (**TJ, Brett, Monica and Linda**) modeled the clothes supplied by **Ricki's** that evening. Our girls may not have experience walking the runways like the supermodels, but they did a great job. Way to go girls! After the show, **Shirley and Kristie** brought out a rack of clothes for us to look through and try on. I'd swear some of the girls eyes glazed over before diving into the rack of clothes. Since the show, a good number of the girls have apparently made their way down to Ricki's to try on and purchase an item or two (and yes, I was one of them).

A lot of the "girls" seemed to be out and about a lot in November. One of the clubs had a hypnotist doing a show on the Saturday after our social. The girls that were there had a great time and one of our crossdressing friends became a star for a while, to the delight of everyone there. The following week, some Illusions people were once again out parading at an "Underwear Party" held at one of the bars. I was there, demurely dressed in a lace corset and stockings. Our table

attracted a fair bit of attention during the evening. Why we got all this attention, I'll just have to leave to your imagination until I get my autobiography published.

In December we held our annual Christmas dinner. We were honoured with the presence of a couple of the girls, **Sonya and Dana**, from down south. This year we decided to hold the dinner at "**The Cook & Gardener**" restaurant. They reserved the entire restaurant for us "girls" that evening. The owner and our cook for the evening, Angela, prepared sumptuous dinners for us all. Afterwards she came out and joined us for some chit chat while our stomachs were hard at work digesting all that food.

That night, four of us (**Brett, Vikki, Leslie and Rachel**) decided we would head down Saturday to the Christmas party in Calgary. Brett and I left Edmonton in femme just after noon and arrived in plenty of time to change into our party attire. I spent the evening talking to and catching up with people I hadn't had a chance to talk to in a long time. I also had the pleasure of meeting and talking to members from Regina, who had come out to a Calgary social for the first time. I enjoyed talking with **Trisha, Nikki** and the rest. I wish them luck in their efforts to open up Regina to the wonderful world of crossdressers.

One final note, the social committee has been hard at work finalizing plans for our **Winterfest party on February 15th**. All indications I get point to this being the best social event of the season. Reserve your tickets as soon as you can. I'm sure tickets will go fast. This will be the event you will not want to miss. Check the ad elsewhere in the magazine for more details.

To quote a petite, pink and porky actor, "Well, Ttttthat's all Folks!"



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Royal Chat

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Empress Michelle Hart

'Tis the season to be Mary and Julie and Janet and.....Michelle your sick and so is your sense of humor! Well then, let's start over...MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR from all of us at "Illusions". A full year has gone by already and one wonders where the time goes. I guess when you are busy and have lots to do the weeks and months just fly by and we have been busy at "Illusions" this past year.

Many people are doing different important things which

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are not always in the limelight, such as Teri's and Jacquie's continued support of "Community" groups engaged in the on-going war with the Alberta Government over human rights for Gays, Lesbians and the trans-gendered. Then there is Roxanne's journey, which amongst many things involves bringing Roxxy out at her place of employment, with the eventual goal of being able to go to work as Roxanne when ever she wants to and be comfortable amongst her co-workers.

Lady Karen has spent many hours patiently entering some of the many letters and articles sent in for the newsletter. Princess Rachel along with the help of her

sisters has been relentless in representing "Illusions" and our lifestyle in Edmonton.

Princess Christine has continued through out the year to raise and support "Her" family in Calgary whilst quietly trying to deal with new conditions at work and at the same time those of the greater "Illusions" membership.

Along the way this past year, we have participated in the "Gay Pride" parade, attended the "Gay Rodeo" and had a great turnout for the Lethbridge "Pride" picnic! Some first time "Community Honors" were bestowed on "Illusions" this past year. First, Empress V "Teri" received a Command from Her Most Imperial Sovereign Majesty "Donna du ya Wanna" and "Emperor" Billie to perform at their step down Ball. Your current reigning Empress VI, Michelle (that's me) her Princesses and her Duchesses were requested to attend the Dais during the third set of the Mr. & Ms Gay Calgary Pageant for 1996. Teri and I had our photos included on the Calgary Diversity Education Project "Come in and be Out" poster. All I can say about that one is I don't look so hot in black and white. Also, Michelle was appointed as the Calgary Courts "Ambassador to Lethbridge". All of these items signify a desire for greater "Community" understanding and acceptance for "Illusions" and our lifestyle as does our participation in the Pride Parade and other community events, signify our desire to be seen doing the same in return.

During this past year, we have seen a continued growth in club membership and the continued growth of our sponsoring businesses- B & B Leatherworks and Lingerie by Barbie. Certainly, periods of growth can be both exhilarating and/or unsettling depending on your perspective. Growth means change, plain and simple. Change also brings growing pains which are partly related to a reluctance of some to leave the comforts of the past, but they also come from competition from various interests for existing and present resources.

Barbara Anderson's business "Lingerie by Barbie", was the original seed that sponsored the growth of the "Illusions" Social Club. Many people have been an integral part of what has happened since. Some of the founding members are still part of the "Club" and for what ever reasons, others are not. The historical reality of "Illusions" are people arriving, participating, then staying (becoming as Barbara has stated "cement fixtures") while others find new priorities and leave. Of course, it can be no other way, all things have to be relevant to the times, to their environment and to the individuals involved.

And so now we approach 1997 and all that it brings. As we proceed through 1997, remember the actions of

those that I wrote of earlier: Teri, Jacqui, Roxxy, Rachel, Christine and others, all working quietly with endurance on projects or ideas that effect us all in a positive way over time.

As most should know by now, the original "Pink Palace" has been dismantled and is the process of being re-established in another area rented by B & B Leatherworks. The new area has the potential of becoming an improvement over the previous arrangements. Members of the Social committee have been putting in spare hours to help Darryl (our Mr. and what would we do without him Fix-it) to put it all back together again, ship shape and ready for the first January Social. I'll be waiting for you at the door (providing I finish my transformation in good time) with a smile. So, from myself and my partner Brenda (Personal Consort of the Empress) to all of our loves, friends and acquaintances at "Illusions", we wish you a very Happy New Year.....may it be all that you hope for and more. Keep the faith gang, 1997 is going to be one great year!

1st Princess Rachel

Someone recently made a comment to me about how I have changed over the last year or so that we have known each other. My initial reaction was to scoff at their comment. Only later did I have the chance to think back on what was said and realize that, in some ways, I have changed. In retrospect, for Rachel, these last two years and especially the last six months, have become richer and fuller

I had believed for so many years, as many of you had, that I was just one person in a very small group of people who had this need to crossdress. I further believed that society would not accept me for who and what I was. As Rachel grew through Illusions, not only did Rachel become more comfortable with herself but my male alter ego became more comfortable with itself as well. This gradual change has given me the courage to try to do things as Rachel which I had thought impossible to do only a short time ago.

What I had envisioned as a small closet is now, in fact, more like a long hallway with many doors on either side. Some of these doors have already been swung open for us. It is up to each one of us to look inside and choose whether to pass through these opened doors. There are also many other doors in this hallway that are closed but we need only turn the handle. These doors are not locked, but need only your desire to walk through them to be opened. I urge you to go ahead and open these doors. You will be a better person. I firmly believe I have changed for the better for having done so.

If you need someone to help you go through one of these doors, there are many people in Illusions, including myself, who want to help you. We would feel privileged to help you walk through the doorway(s).

PLACES TO GO IN EDMONTON

Since I originally wrote about places where we "girls" could go, be it for shopping or anything else, and expect to be treated like the women we really are, I've had a number of girls ask if I could reprint that list. Unfortunately, this is no longer possible. The list has grown since it was first printed in the magazine. Life can be so rough sometimes, can't it. But you can always call me.

Of course, discretion is always a good idea as staff can and do change. If you want to make absolutely sure that thing will be cool when you go, you can always phone first and talk to someone at the store or restaurant.

Of course there are the regular gay clubs where cross-dressers are always welcome with open arms. There are certainly a lot more places out there, it's just that we haven't had the time to check them all out. I also understand that clothing sales are slow again this year. Consequently, I'm sure that even more stores would like to see us and our money. So get out there and enjoy being the woman that you really are!

2nd Princess Christine

My wish for the new year is for society to become more accepting and understanding of cross-dressers and crossdressing. I hope that there will be a greater acceptance of all people as individuals who have varying degrees of both masculine and feminine characteristics.

Many, if not most "experts" today agree that being homosexual is not a condition or mental illness that can be cured. Unfortunately many of these same experts consider crossdressing to be some kind of illness that can and should be cured.

In my humble opinion, it is not the crossdresser who needs to be cured; it is society (or at least those in our society who do not accept at a man can be both masculine and feminine). Society allows and even encourages women to behave and dress like men, but for some reason it does not work the same way for men.

If it is unnatural for a man to like wearing dresses, high heels and other "women's" clothes, then it stands to reason that it is unnatural for a woman to not like wearing these items. If it is natural for all men to always

want to be, and dress masculine, then it must also be natural for all women to always want to be and dress feminine. If men who wear feminine clothing need to be cured, then women who wear masculine clothing need to be cured as well. I know it is difficult for many people to accept men dressed in women's clothes but we have come to accept women wearing "men's" clothes as perfectly natural. Why can't men enjoy the same freedoms as women?

Society now expects men to be more nurturing and more in touch with their feelings. At home men are expected to share in the house work and to do things that have traditionally been considered "women's" work. Why is it that men are not also allowed to act and dress feminine when we feel like it? We are expected to do "women's work" but not allowed to wear "women's clothes". Why is it that women expect to be accepted and loved even when they dress and behave in masculine ways, but consider it grounds for divorce if their husband chooses to dress and behave in feminine ways? Why is it that women can be tough and dominant when they want to be, but men cannot be soft and submissive when they want to be?

I find it strange that if a man is happier when he wears feminine clothes it is considered a compulsion, but if he is happier wearing blue jeans all the time it is not. If a woman is happier wearing pants, that is just fine, but if a man is happier wearing a dress that is a compulsive disorder. We all have things we like to do, but if we are not allowed to do that thing, whether it is playing golf or going shopping, it will make us irritable and unhappy. We will feel a "compulsion" to do that thing we enjoy but are not allowed to do. This does not mean we have a compulsive disorder. It is quite normal for people to feel deprived if they are not allowed to do something they enjoy. The funny thing is that if the person is a man and the thing he likes to do is purchase and wear feminine clothes, he is said to have a compulsive disorder.

I could go on, but I think you get my point. Women are free to be who they want to be, but men are trapped in a masculine stereotype. If men deviate from this masculine mold we are called sick and demented.

Let us hope that by the time we celebrate the new century three years from now, we will be able to do it wearing whatever clothes we like, without having to hide ourselves away from the general public.

Making it work for YOU

Illusions Social Club exists due to the hard work of the volunteers who clean, buy supplies and contribute to this magazine. please offer your help and suggestions to Christine and Barbie. Your help is appreciated by us all.

EVENTS CALENDER CANADA & INT'L

CALGARY

THIRD ANNUAL BINGO NIGHT

Saturday, January 18. After taking a galloping pole it seems you Grrrl's still want to play Bingo. Lots of fun and prizes. Mr. Ty Morgan has once again donated one of his fabulous makeovers as the major prize of the evening! This will be our first Social in our new "Grrrls Room" and maybe that's what we should call it from now on. Come on out and enjoy!

REGULAR SOCIAL

Friday January 31. There is no theme or event scheduled for this social. A good evening for a chat with old friends.

2ND ANNUAL LAS VEGAS NIGHT

Saturday, February 8th. The theme is "SHOW-GIRLS". This is the night that allows you to dust off your sequins, satin gloves etc., drape yourself in rhinestones and a feather boa! Gambling for fun venues are provided as a distraction as your "glittering self" wiles the evening away within the walls of the "Pink Palace Casino"! As an added attraction this year, a short but lively Vegas style stage show will be performed. So hey Babe's, let's go to Vegas! Lots of plans are well

underway. Please note: the new date Feb. 8th!! We changed it because we didn't want to compete with the Edmonton Grrrl's efforts for Winterfest.

2ND ANNUAL "ILLUSIONS" WINTERFEST, EDMONTON

Saturday, February 15th Last years Winterfest was a great success and from what I have heard so far, this years effort will be even better. I had to miss it last year, but I'm going this year. The Edmonton Grrrl's really know how to do it with style!

REGULAR CLUB SOCIAL

Friday, February 28th No theme, just regular good old sociability!

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CLUB SOCIAL

Saturday, March 15 Hey, this is your chance to turn green. If you do make sure it's not with envy just because your not "Wearin' a bit of the Green" and blending in with the rest of us. It's going to be Jigs &

Reels all night courtesy of Princess Christine and her music collection.

COMMUNITY BITS AND PIECES

Watch for the following raffles:

SHOE RAFFLE
Sponsored by Gina, Duchess Exterior

GETTO BLASTER RAFFLE
Sponsored by Karen, Duchess Interior

We will need your help in both buying and selling tickets, so please offer your help to the sponsors. The proceeds from both of these raffles will go to the Social committee to help fund future events at the Club Socials!

EASTER BONNET DRAW
Sponsored by the Mr. & Miss Gay Calgary organization in support of their charity drive. The draw date is to be announced....watch for it!

ARGRA
Ongoing dances throughout the year, we are welcome to come any time.

Michelle, Brenda, Monica, Stephanie, Susan and Teri went to the last one after one of the Club Socials and had a fun time.

ISCCA
The Step down Ball for Rhonda & Neal, Their Most Imperial & Sovereign Highnesses, representing the 20th House of Colours, Cowpokes and Crystals, is right around the corner. Illusions has been asked to perform during one of the sets again this year! Watch for the date and plan to be there.

INT'L

January 23-26
First Event
Woburn MA
P.O. Box 2283,
Woburn MA, 01888,
617-891-9325

February 22-23
American Boyz
F2M Conference
Washington DC.
Call Gary Bowen for info.
410-392-3640
f2m-admin@tantalus.clark.net

March 11-16
Texas "T" Party
P.O. Box 17,
Bulverde TX 78163
210-980-7788

April 15-20
California Unity
11th Annual IFGE Conference
California Dreamin' 97',
Long Beach CA,
IFGE, P.O. Box 229,
Waltham MA 02254-0229
617-899-2212

Scenes to be seen in

Registry

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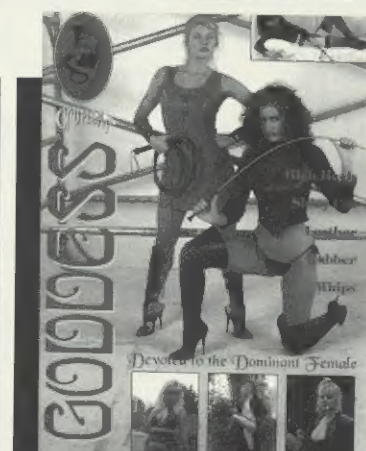
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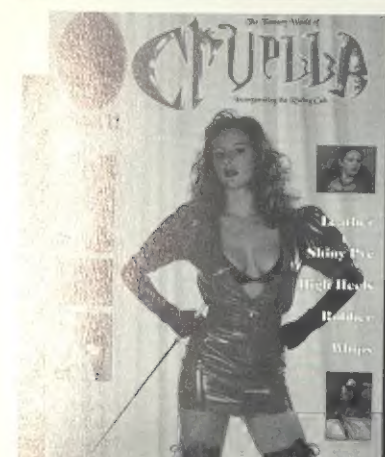
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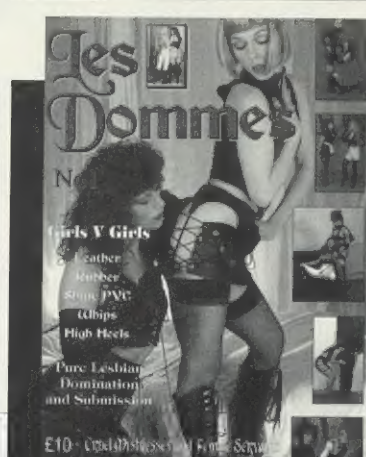
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